

COMMUTING PROFILE

CENTRAL REGION

MARCH 2025

Overview

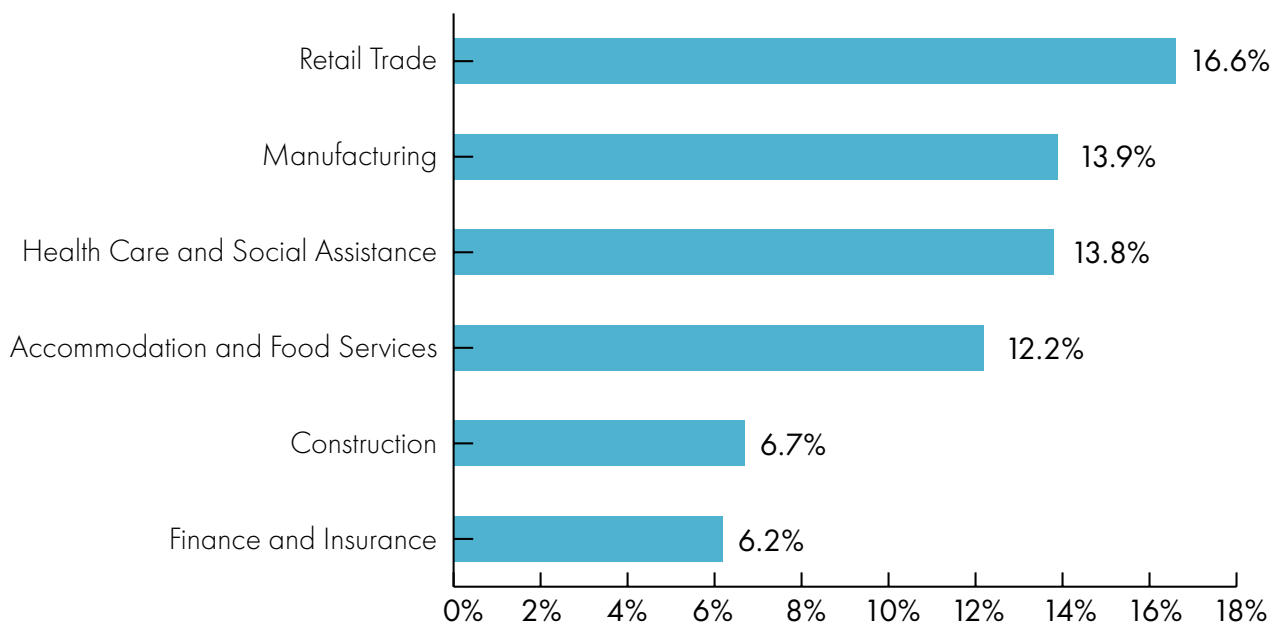
The Central Workforce Development Area (WDA) consists of 19 counties: Audrain, Boone, Callaway, Camden, Cole, Cooper, Crawford, Dent, Gasconade, Howard, Laclede, Maries, Miller, Moniteau, Morgan, Osage, Phelps, Pulaski, and Washington. Some of the largest cities in the region include Columbia, Mexico, Rolla, Camdenton, Lebanon, and Jefferson City, the state capital. The Central WDA employed 8.8 percent of Missouri's workforce in 2022. The largest age group of the region's workforce was 30 to 54 (48.5%), followed by 29 or younger (28.9%) and 55 or older (22.6%). In 2022, over 40 percent of workers in the Central WDA earned more than \$3,333 per month. Of the remaining workers, 20.5 percent earned \$1,250 per month or less and 35.5 percent earned between \$1,251 and \$3,333 per month. In 2022, there were more men (52.5%) than women (47.5%) in the Central WDA workforce.

In 2022, 40.7 percent of employees living in the Central WDA commuted fewer than 10 miles to work, 26.7 percent traveled more than 50 miles to work, 19.8 percent commuted 10 to 24 miles, and 12.7 percent commuted 25 to 50 miles.

Industry

Retail Trade was the largest employing industry in the region at 32,949 jobs (16.6% of total jobs in the region). *Manufacturing, Health Care and Social Assistance, Accommodation and Food Services, Construction, and Finance and Insurance* were other major industry sectors with a large percentage of the region's employment share. Columbia, Jefferson City, Lebanon, Rolla, and Osage Beach were the top cities for employment in the Central WDA.

Top Central WDA Industries - Employment Percentage



Where the Central Labor Force Works and Lives

Of the 198,490 workers employed in the Central WDA in 2022, 72.7 percent commuted to work from within the region and 27.3 percent commuted from outside of the region.

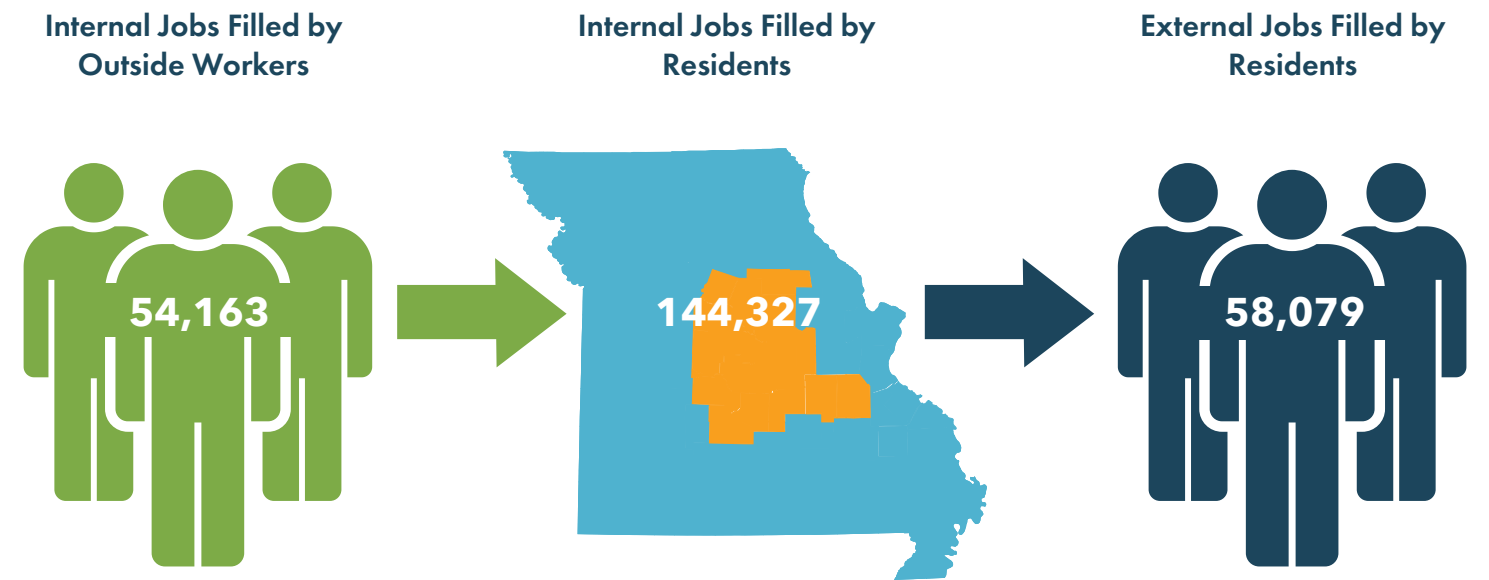
Description	2022	
	Count	Share
Central WDA Labor Market Size		
Employed in the Central WDA	198,490	100.0%
Living in the Central WDA	202,406	102.0%
Net Job Inflow (+) or Outflow (-)	-3,916	-
In Area Labor Force Efficiency		
Living in the Central WDA	202,406	100.0%
Living and Employed in the Central WDA	144,327	71.3%
Living in the Central WDA but Employed Outside	58,079	28.7%
In-Area Employment Efficiency		
Employed in the Central WDA	198,490	100.0%
Employed and Living in the Central WDA	144,327	72.7%
Employed in the Central WDA but Living Outside	54,163	27.3%

Of the region’s residents who were in the workforce, 28.7 percent, or 58,079, commuted to jobs outside of the region. The Central WDA attracted 54,163 workers from outside the region. More than 144,000 Central WDA residents both lived and worked in the region.

The top five counties where Central WDA workers resided (in descending order) were Boone, Cole, Callaway, Camden, and Laclede. Boone and Cole counties were home to almost 31 percent of the region’s workforce in 2022.

Inflow/Outflow

Overall, 202,406 employees lived in the Central WDA and 198,490 total workers were employed in the region, resulting in a net outflow of 3,916 workers from the region.



The following table shows the worker composition for the job inflow and outflow groups as well as worker characteristics of the interior job flow. Of the 144,327 individuals who lived and worked in the region, 27.6 percent were aged 29 years or younger, 49.5 percent were aged 30 to 54 years, and 22.9 percent were aged 55 years or older. More than half worked in the Services industry.

Central WDA Description	2022	
	Count	Share
Outflow Job Characteristics		
External Jobs Filled by Residents	58,079	100.0%
Workers Aged 29 or younger	17,123	29.5%
Workers Aged 30 to 54	27,983	48.2%
Workers Aged 55 or older	12,973	22.3%
Workers Earning \$1,250 per month or less	11,730	20.2%
Workers Earning \$1,251 to \$3,333 per month	20,175	34.7%
Workers Earning More than \$3,333 per month	26,174	45.1%
Workers in the "Goods Producing" Industry Class	10,279	17.7%
Workers in the "Trade, Transportation, and Utilities" Industry Class	20,209	34.8%
Workers in the "All Other Services" Industry Class	27,591	47.5%
Inflow Job Characteristics		
Internal Jobs Filled by Outside Workers	54,163	100.0%
Workers Aged 29 or younger	17,393	32.1%
Workers Aged 30 to 54	24,914	46.0%
Workers Aged 55 or older	11,856	21.9%
Workers Earning \$1,250 per month or less	12,369	22.8%
Workers Earning \$1,251 to \$3,333 per month	19,188	35.4%
Workers Earning More than \$3,333 per month	22,606	41.7%
Workers in the "Goods Producing" Industry Class	9,363	17.3%
Workers in the "Trade, Transportation, and Utilities" Industry Class	18,318	33.8%
Workers in the "All Other Services" Industry Class	26,482	48.9%
Interior Flow Job Characteristics		
Internal Jobs Filled by Residents	144,327	100.0%
Workers Aged 29 or younger	39,906	27.6%
Workers Aged 30 to 54	71,414	49.5%
Workers Aged 55 or older	33,007	22.9%
Workers Earning \$1,250 per month or less	28,402	19.7%
Workers Earning \$1,251 to \$3,333 per month	51,345	35.6%
Workers Earning More than \$3,333 per month	64,580	44.7%
Workers in the "Goods Producing" Industry Class	33,377	23.1%
Workers in the "Trade, Transportation, and Utilities" Industry Class	32,333	22.4%
Workers in the "All Other Services" Industry Class	78,617	54.5%

Commuter Pattern

The top five counties where Central WDA residents worked (in descending order) were Boone, Cole, St. Louis County, Camden, and Phelps. All but Boone, Cole, and Laclede counties had at least half of their residents commuting outside their county of residence for work.

The table below indicates that many workers commuted to another county for employment. Larger cities, such as Columbia and Jefferson City in Boone and Cole counties, respectively, attracted workers from the surrounding counties. These counties also had a lower percentage of workers who left the county to find work. The central location in the state, in addition to Interstate and U.S. Highway access, improves the ability of Central Region residents to commute to their workplace.

Central WDA	
Percent of Employees Working Outside of Home County	
Audrain	59%
Boone	33%
Callaway	71%
Camden	51%
Cole	45%
Cooper	71%
Crawford	68%
Dent	64%
Gasconade	67%
Howard	72%
Laclede	45%
Maries	85%
Miller	72%
Moniteau	70%
Morgan	67%
Osage	71%
Phelps	53%
Pulaski	64%
Washington	77%

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, OnTheMap Application and LEHD Origin-Destination Employment Statistics (LODES), (Beginning of Quarter Employment, 2nd Quarter of 2022*), URL: <https://onthemap.ces.census.gov/>

**2022 is the latest year for which LEHD Origin-Destination Employment Statistics (commuting data) is available from the U.S. Census Bureau. To maintain the consistency of data in this report, all relevant data used is also from 2022, although later data for some data points was available.*

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